

To say they were a hit is an understatement. From a spirited performance in the historic Xi'an City Plaza, to an energetic performance at the Great Wall of China, to their climactic parade and a knock-their-socks-off concert in Beijing, the Shaw High School Band represented themselves, their school, their city of East Cleveland, and this great country with honor.

In the process, based on the cheers and applause from the audiences, they won the hearts of their Chinese hosts. This summer, the people of China—and the world—came to know what so many of us already knew: The Mighty Shaw High School Marching Band is world class.

These are the band members:

Jimea Barnum, flag; Justin Bass, French horn; Jason Blade, trumpet; Samone Bey, dance team; Krystal Brooks, flag; Alona Bryson, dance team; Carlissa Chambers, dance team; Renee Dorsey, flag; Kamaria Eiland, flag; Leah Foster, cymbals; Isaiah Gardner, tenor drum; Marlon Graves, tenor drum; Rhonda Harris, cymbals; Arthur Hill, baritone horn; Simone Hurd, dance team; Kayla Jordan, dance team; Gerome Jennings, Baritone horn; Jared Lang, French horn; Derrick Le Grande, tenor drum.

Deontae Lewis, French horn; Mathew Longino, French horn; Marshae Love, dance team; Audrey Maxwell, trombone; Genesis Maxwell, cymbals; Alisha McClellan, cymbals; Robert Miller, tenor drum; Seirra Moore, trumpet; Quanee Penn, snare drum; Tony Prather, bass drum; Raymond Raye, bass drum; Sharleen Riley, flag; Chanay Robinson, trombone; Tyrel Ross, tuba; Delilah Sedrick, dance team; Natasha Shields, trumpet; Masonia Shorter-Little, trombone; Jimila Small, trumpet; Andresa Stephens, dance team; Marshall Stone, trombone.

Chavone Taylor, snare drum; Jonathan Thomas, tuba; Rory Tripp, trumpet; Donovan Vaughn, trumpet; Ericka Walker, trumpet; Denzel Watkins, snare drum; Kimille Webb, dance team; Russell West, baritone horn; Daniel Whitworth, tuba; Ciera Whitworth, trumpet; Shera Williams, trombone; Victor Williams, snare drum; Latonia Young, flag.

These young men and women are special as students, as musicians, and as citizen ambassadors. Welcome home. We are all so proud of you.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to mark a dark anniversary for the Hellenic-American community, and its Cypriot members in particular. Thirty-four years ago this week, the armed forces of Turkey violated the sovereignty and territory of the Republic of Cyprus by illegally invading and ultimately occupying its northern third.

The continued division and military occupation of Cyprus by Turkey remains a gross violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots and a blatant disregard for the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly condemned Turkey for violating fundamental rights of Cypriots such as the right to life, the right to liberty and security, the right to the protection of property and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment—rights we as Americans also regard as sacrosanct.

Throughout these decades of injustice, the Greek Cypriot community has sought a just resolution to the "Cyprus Question." And we are certainly at a potentially historic crossroads in the effort to end this tragic division. With the February election of President Christofias and his focus on engaging the Turkish Cypriot community, the coming months may turn out to be among the most consequential in the island's long history. Certainly, for the people of the Republic of Cyprus, the illegal occupation of the north cannot come to an end soon enough.

Meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou in early April, I was therefore heartened to hear in detail about the progress made at President Christofias' March meeting with Mehmet Ali Talat, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, which resulted in the establishment of working groups on the outstanding substantive issues to be resolved between the two communities. Shortly thereafter, the two communities opened a critical border crossing on Ledra Street in the heart of Nicosia in early April. The two leaders have met twice more to review the progress of the working groups, and are scheduled to again meet at the end of this week.

These efforts only strengthen my long-held commitment to work to ensure that the United States stands by its close ally, the Republic of Cyprus, to achieve a resolution to the tragic division of the island that is fair to Greek Cypriots. As we learned from our experience with the justified rejection of the Annan Plan by Greek Cypriots in 2004—the Cyprus Question is one that can only be resolved through mutual agreement on a solution, not an imposition of one.

The magnanimity of the Greek Cypriot community in seeking a fair solution to the division of the island despite the injustices they have suffered for nearly three and a half decades was also highlighted for me in October,

when I met with the Mayor-in-exile of Famagusta, Alexis Galanos, concerning the Republic's hope for the orderly resettlement of the "ghost neighborhood" of Varosha by its rightful inhabitants under U.N. administration, which would also open the harbor for use by both communities. Support for this plan—which the international community called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution 550 of 1984—demonstrates not only the willingness but also the wisdom of the Greek Cypriot community in seeking just and workable outcomes to seemingly intractable problems on the island. I am pleased to be working with Ambassador Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus to garner congressional support for this initiative.

Moreover, the United States should be doing its part to address one of the most devastating effects of the occupation on Cypriot-American families by providing the means for U.S. citizens with claims to property in the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus to seek redress for the homes that have been destroyed or taken from them. The invasion by the Turkish troops in 1974 forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots—nearly one-third of the Cypriot population at the time—from their homes, making them refugees in their own country. A large proportion of the properties from which the Greek Cypriot owners were expelled was unlawfully distributed to the tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 U.S. citizens of Cypriot descent have claims to such properties.

That is why my colleague Senator MENENDEZ and I have introduced the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, which would direct the U.S. Government's independent Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to receive, evaluate, and determine awards with respect to the claims of U.S. citizens and businesses that lost property as a result of Turkey's invasion and continued occupation of northern Cyprus. The bill would further grant U.S. Federal courts jurisdiction over suits by U.S. nationals against any private persons occupying or otherwise using the U.S. national's property in the Turkish-occupied portion of Cyprus. The act would expressly waive Turkey's sovereign immunity against claims brought by U.S. nationals in U.S. courts relating to property occupied by the Government of Turkey and used by Turkey in connection with a commercial activity carried out in the United States.

More than just providing redress to Cypriot-Americans who have had their ancestral homes taken from them, this legislation would uphold the larger shared values of justice and personal dignity that the citizens of both the United States and the Republic of Cyprus value so highly. It is my hope and pledge that, whatever progress is made in the current talks between the two communities on the island, the United